

imposts, or probably from military insolence. But in the later period the wars between competitors for the Empire were murderous and desolating. The end was universal decay and ultimate ruin. In Pilate we see the Roman Governor with his haughty and contemptuous attitude towards the people, Pliny, under Trajan, looks better, yet is distinctly alien. Herod, delegated by Rome, is a tyrant, and in his last days worse.

The King's Proclamation to the people of India the other day was excellent, and his own spirit was in it. Unfortunately it could hardly reach the masses of the people who were ignorant of the language, but it may have had a very good effect on the world at large.

We seldom hear now in any trustworthy quarter serious complaints of inefficiency in the East Indian service; still more seldom of anything like corruption. Probably no country is more faithfully served. The writer-ships are no longer private patronage; they are given by public examination. It was feared at first that scholars might be impractical, but Lawrence, to whom the misgiving was addressed, answered with an offer to exchange his men of the old school for the same number of "competition *wallahs*."

A ruling race bears the responsibility for everything; for the unkindness of nature as well as for the defaults of Government. The ruling race in India is probably by native ignorance held responsible for plague, flood and famine. If the native could reckon how much the ruling power, with its limited agencies, had done in the way of averting or mitigating natural calamities, and compare it with anything done by the rulers of his own race, his feeling might be changed. From the Government have proceeded all attempts at systematic and extensive relief. Therapeutics, scientific therapeutics at all events, are of British introduction. So are railroads, which must have greatly

facilitated relief as well as locomotion and production.

Two dark stains, it cannot be denied, there are on the history of British Empire in the East. One is the part which necessity imposed on England of upholding the blighting and polluting empire of Turkey over some of the fairest regions of the earth. The other is the necessity to which financial difficulties drove her of forcing opium upon China. The second stain is perhaps the blacker of the two. Englishmen of the higher moral class protested against the opium trade, and it probably cost such a Minister as Mr. Gladstone a pang to turn a deaf ear to their remonstrance. A costly craze, if nothing worse, was the fancy, cherished, like other fancies of the kind, by Palmerston, and flattered by military men, that Russia had designs on India. This led to the disastrous invasion of Afghanistan, and to a morbid hatred of Russia, which helped to bring about the Crimean war. Russia was an old friend, and the Czar Nicholas personally was a great admirer of England and strongly attached to the British connection.

It is, of course, inevitable that the ruling race should keep in its hand supreme power and the sole control of the army. Of the power less than supreme as large a share as possible seems to have been conceded to the native. Personal liberty of every kind, including liberty of opinion and of the press, seems also to have been freely given. Upon the liberty of the press, under the present circumstances, it becomes necessary to put some restraint. But in doing so it is shown how large the amount of liberty has been.

Whether England herself has gained or lost by her Indian Empire is a very complex and difficult question. Commercially, Nassau Senior, one high among the political economists of his day, always maintained that England had lost by the Indian Empire, and wished she were well rid